AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to the figures as required by the Examiner.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR § 1.83(a). The Examiner requires that the turning over means in claim 1 and the compressor and heat exchangers of claim 3 be shown in the drawings. In order to expedite the prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to eliminate the turning over means, which as mentioned in the specification constitutes prior art. Further, claim 3 has been deleted so that the showing of compressors and heat exchangers is not necessary.

Fig. 1 has been amended so that the claimed sensors (3a, 3b and 3c) and regulating means in claim 5 are shown. The louvers mentioned in the claim are illustrated by reference numerals 5 and 6 in Fig. 1. The programming and automation means in claim 6 is now indicated in block form and denoted by reference numeral 3d.

The forced ventilation means is schematically illustrated by reference numeral 3e in Fig. 1 and this component is indicated as being electrically connected to the programming and automation means 3d.

In accordance with the Examiner's requirement in paragraph 2 of the Office Action a substitute Abstract is provided herewith.

Originally submitted claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The particular indefinite phrase has been removed so that further rejection on this ground is not anticipated.

Claims 5 and 6 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to include a modified version of originally

submitted claim 1. Claim 6 depends from claim 5. Applicant believes that with the rewriting of claims 5 and 6, they are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1, 3-4 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luboschik (DE 4315321 A1) in view of Laing (DE 3118947 A1). Claims 1, 4, 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luboschik in view of Fernandopulle (US 4,230,531). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luboschik in view of Fernandopulle and further in view of Coulthard (US 3,981,803). The following remarks will address the prior art relied upon by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been rewritten as claim 10 and is directed to a system for drying sludge from waster water, the system including a green house with translucent or transparent walls permitting solar drying of a bed of sludge. In addition to solar drying, independent claim 10 includes at least one wind generator that generates electrical energy that is converted to heat that is delivered to a slab, within the green house, upon which the bed of sludge is spread. Accordingly, the presently claimed invention is capable of performing drying not only during the day (solar power), but continually from heat provided by energy generated by the wind generator. Accordingly, the invention as set forth in claim 10 utilizes a wind generator to produce electrical energy that is directly converted to heat. It is noteworthy that the claim does not require intermediate storage of electrical energy but rather performs electrical-heat conversion directly and immediately.

The system of the presently claimed invention is particularly simple and economical because the wind generator furnishes electricity without any electrical regulation and the electrical energy is directly converted to heat due to the Joule effect for rendering maximum thermal efficiency.

Luboschik (DE 43 15 321) concerns an installation for drying sludge by solar power, the system being void of wind generators to recoup wind energy that can be converted to heat within a greenhouse.

Laing (DE 31 18 947) concerns a heat pump which, as indicated on page 5, line 5, is designed for heating a greenhouse in which plants are cultivated *and in no way concerns the drying of sludge*. The heat pump extracts heat from exterior air (2) for furnishing the heat to a fluid heat conducting circuit 3 that passes a thermal exchanger 5. A compressor 7 is driven, either by a diesel motor 10 or a wind generator 16 (see page 5, paragraphs 2 and 3).

A hot water circuit with pump 18 delivers the extracted heat in the exchanger 19 located between a ventilator 20 and a battery of accumulators of latent heat 24 (page 5, last paragraph).

As long as the sun shines, ventilator 20 sucks in air 25 heated by the greenhouse in a manner charging the heat accumulator 24. This heat is then used to heat the greenhouse during the night, and if this heat is insufficient the compressor 7 is put into operation (see page 6, first paragraph).

Finally, one can say that Laing concerns a complicated installation with the heat pump that during the day removes heat for the greenhouse and then the warm air of the greenhouse is sucked out by the ventilator 20 for storage of the heat in enclosure 24.

Considering Laing, it can be concluded that the reference does not teach the direct transformation of mechanical energy by a wind generator to electrical energy that is converted to heat due to the Joule effect in order to heat a bed of sludge continuously in addition to drying by solar heat. The reference teaches heat storage when the sun shines and restores it to the greenhouse at night.

It is Applicant's position that the teaching of Laing would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the present invention that permits a simple means of adding to the drying capabilities of solar heat during the day with heat provided by electrical energy provided by a wind generator.

In connection with the Examiner's rejection of claim 2, the following comments concerning the applied references should be taken into account.

Fernandopulle (US 4,230,531) concerns an installation for the distillation of salt water for producing sweet water employing a solar greenhouse. It is directed to an application quite different from the presently claimed invention. The object of the reference is to extend the effect of solar distillation until a normal period of the day during which solar energy is available (column 1, lines 21-23).

A wind generator is provided to furnish electrical energy that is stored in batteries (3). Heating of the greenhouse in addition to solar heat is assured by the circulation of brine provided from a reservoir in which heat is produced with the aid of stored energy in batteries 3 (column 3, lines 19-28). In accordance with the cited reference, there is electrical energy stored as produced by the wind generator 1 but this results in a complicated installation for heating the brine.

It is Applicant's position that this cited reference would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art the invention as set forth in claimed invention wherein the drying of sludge by the contribution of an electrical component occurs without the storage of electrical energy and is rather produced directly by energy generated by the wind generator for immediate conversion to heat.

Coulthard (US 3,981,803) concerns an anaerobic fermentation vessel that is quite different from the sludge drying installation set forth in the presently claimed invention. The heating unit 6 provided in the base of the reference vessel is mentioned in passing as being able to electrically heat (column 5, lines 7 and 8), but there is no detailed description comparable to the solution of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the combination of references cited by the Examiner in the § 103 rejections do not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21029-00286-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By_____/Morris Liss/_____
Morris Liss
Registration No.: 24,510
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments